

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 141758Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9562

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: LA MADDALENA

1. AT LUNCH WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE FORLANI ON FEBRUARY 13 I RAISED CONTINUING PROBLEM OF OBTAINING A BIA AMENDMENT FOR OUR NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ON LA MADDALENA. I GAVE THE MINISTER A CHRONOLOGY OF OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, REMINDED HIM OF OUR EARLIER DISCUSSION ON DECEMBER 18, AND EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. OUR DECISION TO ESTABLISH THE SUBMARINE TENDER AT LA MADDALENA WAS BASED ON THE PREFERENCE EXPRESSED BY THE ITALIAN NAVY.

B. THE TENDER, ACTUALLY MOORED AT SANTO STEFANO, IS COVERED BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE BIA.

C. BY MEMORANDUM OF APRIL 1973 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ACCEPTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHORE BASED NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY ON LA MADDALENA INDICATING, IN OUR VIEW, ACCEPTANCE OF THE BROADER CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT INCLUDING PROVISION OF SAME AMENITIES OFFERED TO U.S. MILITARY AT OTHER FACILITIES IN ITALY.

D. IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST THAT THE FACILITY AT LA
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MADDALENA OPERATE OUTSIDE THE VAGARIES OF LOCAL POLITICS WITHOUT

THE CONTINUED RISK OF BECOMING AN ISSUE WHICH SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS CAN EXPLOIT TO ATTACK THE ITALIAN/AMERICAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.

2. THE MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PARTICULARLY AS THE ISSUE OF THE COMMISSARY/PX FACILITY WAS NO LONGER SALIENT. HE HOPED THAT THE BIA AMENDMENT COULD BE APPROVED. GENERAL GIANBARTOLOMEI, HIS CHIEF OF CABINET, HAS BEEN HANDLING THE ISSUE. HE IS NOW IN HOSPITAL BUT WILL BE RETURNING TO WORK IN THE COMING WEEK. SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE MINISTER HOPED TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ME. VOLPE

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